

352.5
H253N

Hartford Courant

Probably rain today—fair to-morrow.

(Weather Report on Page 9.)

PRICE 3 CENTS.

N. BRITAIN VOTES FOR MUNICIPAL LIGHTING PLANT

Council Unanimous In the
Action Taken.

COMPANY REFUSES FIVE YEAR CONTRACT

The Council Also Votes In
Favor of Municipal Ice
Plant.

(Special to The Courant.)

New Britain, Sept. 17.

The common council tonight put itself on record, unanimously, in a preliminary vote favoring municipal lighting. Light is furnished New Britain by the United Electric Light & Water Company, which waged a successful fight in the last Legislature for an amendment to its charter permitting a bond issue for the purpose of erecting a lighting plant at tide water. Attempts to secure cheaper rates have failed and the result is the vote taken tonight favoring municipal lighting. Meanwhile a ten year contract has been signed with the company, which may be terminated at the end of five years.

Ten-Year Light Contract Signed.

Alderman George A. Quigley reported as chairman of the special committee on lighting contract made an important report. The committee appointed has held three meetings, the second of which General Manager Campbell attended. After conferences with him outside of the committee meetings several important concessions in the contract which amount to a reduction in the price of light were obtained. Under the contract submitted the city was entitled to a 2 per cent. reduction in price for every 10 per cent. increase in number of lights installed above the number called for in the contract. This discount applied only to the present lighting district and not to the outside district. The committee has secured from Mr. Campbell a new clause which will include this outside district.

Two Per Cent. Cut on New Lights.

This is a very important concession as a majority of the new lights will undoubtedly be in the outside section. Another important concession is that the 2 per cent. discount applies immediately upon the installation of a ten per cent. increase in the number of lights.

Another important matter taken up was adjusting the difference which may arise regarding the price to be charged for new improved lights that would be substituted for old style lamps from time to time. It is now proposed in case a satisfactory agreement cannot be reached between the city and the company as to the proper charge for new lights the matter be arbitrated.

The committee was unable to secure a favorable contract for five-year term. Mr. Campbell would not agree to the prices. The prices would be increased as follows: Arc lights \$89.25, 200 cp. \$41.21, 60 cp. \$19.53.

Hood

8/18-15

Hood
Courant

Get Cheaper Private Lights.

Probably the most important concession of the committee was a reduction in the price of electricity to private consumers. A cut of 1 cent per kilowatt hour will be made within four months, making the price 10 cents instead of 11 cents. The committee included with its report a letter from the general manager putting in writing this reduction in private lighting rates. The committee recommended in view of the concessions the signing of the 10-year contract. Alderman Quigley said it hurt him to vote for a ten-year contract, but he did not know what else he could do. The reduction of 1 cent a kilowatt would mean a saving of \$7,000 or \$8,000. Councilman Parker thought the committee deserves the thanks of every user of electricity in New Britain. The reduction of 1 cent per kilowatt meant a whole month's receipts for the company. The committee had done a good work if they only secured this one thing. The committee's report was adopted.

To Go Into Municipal Lighting.

The council finally voted unanimously for the ten-year lighting contract, after a prolonged argument, and Councilman Church withdrew an amendment for a five-year contract.

The council then took from the table the matter of municipal lighting business. Alderman Christ moved the adoption of the resolution to take the preliminary vote to go into the municipal lighting business. He made a long speech, strongly advocating the action, saying that this did not tie up the city in any way and he gave assurance that before further action is taken a thorough investigation would be made.

Councilman Church wanted to know if the company would hold up all improvements if the vote was taken. Alderman Christ said it was a fair question, and he could not tell what effect it would have. He believed the company would go ahead tomorrow morning and make improvements to make the people believe that the city should not go into the municipal light business.

Alderman Quigley said he favored municipal lighting if they could keep politics out. As the company would not give the city a five-year contract, he would vote for municipal lights.

Councilman Barton gave interesting data to show Connecticut was far beyond the average in the municipal lighting business, and it was time for New Britain to get busy.

Alderman Christ called for a roll-call vote on the resolution.

A roll-call vote was then taken and it was unanimous for municipal lighting.

The council also voted for a municipal ice plant, the report of the proceedings being given on page 13.

The Ha

HARTFORD, CONN.

past season, whether the ice is used or not. We find that the greater part of the shrinkage is in handling the ice and not while the ice is in storage.

The figures pertaining to the erection of an icehouse at Shuttle Meadow fully equipped (icehouse 150 feet long by 50 feet wide by 30 feet high) to the best of our knowledge are as follows:

Capacity of house, 6,700 tons.	
Building and runways	\$3,500
Sawdust and hay	150
Machinery	1,000
10-horsepower motor, plow	225
Electric device for pulling	1,300
Filling in around house	500
Miscellaneous and tools	1,000

Total\$7,675

In case the city is compelled to go into the delivery business on account of the continued high prices of ice, it will be an easy matter to double the housing capacity of the house without additional machinery. Therefore, this committee wishes to submit to your honorable body a resolution for your approval.

The Resolution.

The committee followed the report with the following resolution:

Resolved, That the report of the committee on ice plant be accepted and such a plant as suggested by the committee be erected and the matter referred to the board of finance and taxation to make the proper estimate of expense and recommend the amount of appropriation to be made to meet the same and a tax to cover the appropriation and report same at next meeting of the common council.

Councilmen Wagner spoke strongly in favor of the report of the committee as chairman. He said that Shuttle Meadow Lake is as large as all the other ice ponds put together, and by establishing a plant they would obviate any risk of shortage in the future.

Councilman Spittler of the committee gave figures showing that the plant would be a big money maker. He thought it would pay to build the icehouse there, if they succeeded in getting the price of ice reduced 50 per cent., if they didn't touch the ice. Alderman Lawyer brought out that the ice could be carried over for a year and a half to two years, with only a shrinkage of 5 per cent.

Councilman Paonessa wanted to add \$3,000 to the appropriation and double the capacity of the ice plant. Councilman Spittler thought better to wait until after the first year, as it was an experiment.

Christ Wants To Be Shown.

Alderman Christ asked for the annual consumption of ice in New Britain. Councilman Wagner said 25,000 tons. Alderman Christ recalled a previous ice report, which showed such profits that the federal government ought to apply it to reduce the national debt. He was skeptical about being able to control the price of 25,000 tons of ice with a plant containing 6,700 tons. There would be some trouble among the tax payers as to how it should be distributed.

Councilman Wagner felt that the committee should go slow. He said dealers certainly wouldn't go out of town when they buy ice here. The more ice they had the cheaper they could sell to dealers.

Alderman Shine explained that the city paid \$166 for ice last month. Last year they paid \$150 for the whole year. Councilman Veight opposed the passage of the resolution. They ought to provide ice for everybody. They ought not to go into it in a half hearted way. He didn't believe they should harvest ice at Shuttle Meadow on account of contamination. He favored considering an artificial ice plant. Councilman Paonessa said an artificial plant would cost \$100,000. The city wasn't in a position to take it up.

Councilman Wagner said an artificial ice plant for machinery only would cost \$58,000.

The ice report was adopted.

To Establish Municipal Ice Plant.

The municipal ice committee made the following report:

We, your committee appointed to investigate the conditions of erecting a municipal ice plant, beg to report:

This committee has taken into consideration the advisability of erecting a municipal ice plant so that ice will be delivered to the people at a fair price. After communicating with and inspecting several ice plants we find that the difference between manufactured ice is so much greater in price to produce than the natural ice that the committee is very much in favor of natural ice to be cut at Shuttle Meadow. This lake being situated as it is, makes it an ideal place for harvesting ice. An ice house erected below the dam would require very little labor in filling compared with other plants inspected. By using an electric device for cutting, and under proper supervision by the board of health, the contamination is absolutely eliminated. The cost of the entire plant, in the opinion of the committee, will not exceed \$1,000 and in return will stand this city a very fair percentage.

The housing of this ice will protect the citizens of this city against any shortage such as we experienced this

Hartford
Courant

9/18-13

in re new Britain



3 0112 098432476